

When I came to the Senate, I became a freshman member of the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Chair of the International Operations Subcommittee. Throughout that time—and ever since Senator HELMS has been relentlessly gracious to me, as he had been whenever we had worked together on various conference committees back when I was in the House.

Here in the Senate, we worked hand-in-glove on the State Department reauthorization, and I appreciated the opportunity he gave me to chair a full committee hearing with then-Secretary Albright on the issue of intelligence sharing with the U.N. in the wake of our involvement in Somalia.

That was a serious concern that he and I shared—how would we protect U.S. intelligence information, particularly in light of the intelligence breach that had taken place in Somalia, where the U.N. had documents they should not have had which were also not properly secured. Issues brought to our attention during that hearing with Secretary Albright were eventually incorporated into the State Department bill.

During my tenure on the Foreign Relations Committee, I worked with Senator HELMS on the reorganization of the State Department, which was passed in 1998. As Chair of the International Operations Subcommittee I also introduced legislation in 1995 to create Terrorist Lookout committees in our embassies. With the help of Senator HELMS, this bill was incorporated in the State Department Authorization Act of 1996–1997, that was subsequently vetoed.

In the wake of 9/11, I re-introduced this legislation with Senator HELMS as a cosponsor and worked with him to seek its inclusion in the USA PATRIOT Act passed last year. With his support, this bill has finally become law as part of the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act.

Of course, it will come as no surprise that we didn't agree on all the issues. But it can truly be said he has left his mark on the global landscape. And that includes his introduction of legislation last year to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV infection—a goal I share by providing \$700 million in international emergency AIDS spending.

It is also true that agreement is not the test of friendship or respect in this body—nor should it be. Indeed, this body was founded on the ideals of debate and deliberation among men and women of good conscience who feel strongly about the pressing matters of the day.

I appreciate his candor, his friendship, and his service to North Carolina, America and indeed the world. On the occasion of his retirement, I would like to extend my best wishes to him, as well as his wife Dorothy with whom he has such a special and loving relationship. Senator HELMS will truly be missed, but most assuredly never forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO SEN. STROM THURMOND

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to South Carolina Senator STROM THURMOND, an institution unto himself who has served with distinction in the U.S. Senate for almost a half-century. Senator THURMOND is the longest-serving member in the history of the Senate and the second Senator in history to cast 15,000 votes. During his tenure, Senator THURMOND has been an enduring witness to history, presiding over the chamber during a tremendous transformation of the American landscape. During this time, Senator THURMOND has steadfastly remained responsible to the voters of South Carolina, who have returned him to the chamber time and time again. Senator THURMOND's enduring legacy will continue on well beyond his retirement at the end of the 107th Congress.

Senator THURMOND was born in 1902, in Edgefield, SC. His early years were spent as an Army reservist, teacher, superintendent and lawyer. Senator THURMOND won election to the South Carolina State Senate in 1933, representing his home district of Edgefield for the next five years. Senator THURMOND then became a Circuit Judge of South Carolina, just as the clouds of war descended over Europe. Never one to shy away from his duty to his country, Senator THURMOND sought and received an exemption to return to military duty. On June 6, 1944, he landed in Normandy on D-Day with the 82nd Airborne Division at the age of 42. For his service in World War II, Senator THURMOND earned eighteen decorations, medals and awards, including the Purple Heart, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster and Bronze Star for Valor. He returned to South Carolina a war hero, and was elected Governor of the Palmetto State in 1946. In 1954, Senator THURMOND was elected to the United States Senate, becoming the first, and so far, the only politician elected to the Senate as a write-in candidate.

Senator THURMOND has dedicated his life to preserving, defending and participating in our democracy. He attended the Democratic National Convention in 1932 and voted for Franklin D. Roosevelt. Sixty four years later, he attended the Republican Convention and voted for Bob Dole. In fact, Senator THURMOND was a Democrat for thirty two years and has been a Republican for the past thirty eight. Through it all, he has managed to remain relevant, active and a force on the national scene. Just two years ago, he played a critical role in helping to line up Republican support for George Bush in the South Carolina primary, helping to secure his nomination for President of the United States.

Senator THURMOND's countless achievements and awards are a testament to his distinguished career in public service. He holds thirty four honorary degrees, is in the South Carolina Hall of Fame, and is a recipient of

the Presidential Citizens Award, Presidential Freedom Award, as well as other major awards from American Legion, VFW, DAV, AMVETS, the National Guard, Army and Navy associations, farm groups, business groups, education groups and several foreign countries.

It is with great admiration for Senator THURMOND's longevity and service that I commend him for his distinguished career in Congress. No one in the history of the Senate can say that they gave more of their life to this body, and while his presence may be gone after the 107th Congress, his spirit will forever remain a part of this chamber. I wish he and his family all the best in the future.

THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE'S 100TH VOTE IN 15 MONTHS ON JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today marks the 15-month anniversary of the reorganization of the Senate Judiciary Committee following the change in the Senate majority last summer. This week also became another milestone as the Judiciary Committee voted on the 100th judicial nominee of President George W. Bush. This historic demonstration of bipartisanship toward this President's judicial nominees has been overshadowed by partisan attacks in this very chamber and in the press.

I have worked diligently along with the other Democratic Senators on the Judiciary Committee to hold a record number of hearings for this President's district and circuit court nominees during the past 15 months and to bring as many as we could to a vote this year. Given all of the competing responsibilities of the committee and the Senate in these times of great challenges to our Nation, hearings for 103 judicial nominees, voting on 100, and favorably reporting 98 is a record of which the Judiciary Committee and the Senate can be proud. We have transcended the relative inaction of the prior 6½ years of Republican control by moving forward on judicial nominees twice as quickly as our predecessors did. Indeed, the Senate has already confirmed more judicial nominees in 15 months than the Republican-controlled Senate did during its last 30 months. More achieved, and in half the time.

The raw numbers, not percentages, reveal the true workload of the Senate on nominations and everyone knows that. Anyone who pays attention to the federal judiciary and who does not have a partisan agenda must know that. In addition, Democrats have moved more quickly in voting on judicial nominees of a President of a different party than in any time in recent history. Led by Majority Leader DASCHLE, the Democratic majority in the Senate has confirmed 80 judicial nominees, including 14 circuit court nominees, for a President of a different party, in just 15 months since the reorganization of the Judiciary Committee. In comparison,